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HOUSEPEEKERS' CHAT Friday, March 9, 1934.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "We Visit a Rhode Island Farm Home." Information from Sara E. Coyne, State Home Demonstration Leader, Rhode Island. Approved by Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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Let's put on our bonnets and go visiting this morning. We haven't had a trip since goodness knows when. It's time for us to go places and see things.

If we take the trip I have in mind this morning we'll see plenty of things -- and when we come back we may want to do over our kitchens and living rooms right away. For we're going to visit a typical Rhode Island farm home, with Miss Sara Coyne as our guide. Miss Coyne is State Home Demonstration Leader for the State of Rhode Island. Naturally, she is interested in the families that have been helped and encouraged to develop and improve their homes at small cost by the Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating with the States.

But let's be on our way. (It takes no time at all to travel by radio.) Here we are -- and there's where the Jones family lives, in the house at the top of the hill in that grove of elm trees. See the low-studded white farm house with the green shutters? It must be beautiful in the summer time, with all those shrubs, and the big broad lawn. The farm buildings look neat and well-kept. Everything on this dairy farm seems to be in apple-pie order. These people must have plenty of money, Miss Coyne.

"No," says Miss Coyne, "they don't have much money. When the Jones family took over this place it was run down, outside and in."

"But how could they make it so attractive," we ask, "without lots of money?"

"By making the most of what they have to do with," Miss Coyne tells us. "In the first place, the members of the family meet in council and talk over the various home and farm problems. One of the council rules is family membership in community and agricultural organizations. Mr. Jones is an active member of the Farm Bureau. Mrs. Jones is a leader for home demonstration work. The boys and girls are members of the 4-H Club.

"Now come into the kitchen," says Miss Coyne. "Mrs. Jones won't mind my showing you her home. She is very proud of this room -- she calls it her 'New Ideal Kitchen.'"

"How attractive," we say, "and how conveniently arranged. Why, there's even a desk in the corner, for household account books."

"That desk," explains our guide, "is made of an orange crate. When the Joneses moved into this house, the whole family went to work to improve the kitchen. They papered and painted. To be exact, they took off thirteen layers of paper, and discovered a fireplace bricked up in the wall.

"Now these cupboards are all new -- made from orange crates, since there was no money for cupboards. Father and the boys made the cupboards and the desk. They also fitted in shelves wherever they were needed; that one near the stove is for coffee can and percolator, tea and teapot. You will see many other step-savers in this kitchen. Near the stove are kettle covers, frying pans, a fork to try vegetables, and a spoon to stir the gravy. On this shelf above the stove are salt, pepper, flour and sugar containers--all within easy reach of the cook.

"The clock was put here in the kitchen so that Mrs. Jones could time her cooking without going into the next room. Her work table and sink are just the right height. The sink was placed near this window so that there would be plenty of light, and so that Mrs. Jones might have a pleasant view while she works."

We admire the view, and then Miss Coyne invites us into the living room. It's a charming room, tastefully decorated. There's a comfortable chair and convenient light for everybody. We learn that it was not always so attractive. That inviting cretonne-covered wing chair, father's favorite, was once an old leather morris chair. It was done over with webbing made from burlap bags and springs from a discarded automobile.

"If we had time," says Miss Coyne, "I could tell you the inside story of every one of the six chairs in this room, the foot stool, the lamps and the lamp-shades. The improved chairs made the rest of the room look shabby, so the family voted to paper and paint the room, and get new curtains and draperies. The rug would do for a while. The 4-H Club in this community had studied color schemes, including those for rooms with north exposure, so the children suggested colors for walls and woodwork. The woodwork is cream, toned down with brown to make it look antique. This colonial paper, in monotones of tan and cream, makes it possible to use the lovely figured draperies with soft tones of orange, blue, green, and a touch of black. The chairs all harmonize, some in plain colors and some in small figures, but all a part of the whole picture."

"The Jones family must be a happy one," we tell Miss Coyne, "living in such pleasant surroundings."

She reminds us that there are hundreds of just such families all over the country. They have been helped and encouraged to improve their homes and farms with little expense. Such help is part of the work of the Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating with the States.

But now it's time to leave, so we thank our guide and take one last look at the cheerful New England home on the top of the hill. Everybody ready to go? No -- we'll have to wait for Mrs. Thompson. She went back to take a few more notes on Mrs. Jones' "New Ideal Kitchen."

Tomorrow -- or rather next Monday -- we'll talk about fish dishes. Inexpensive ones that won't throw the food budget into a panic. I'll see you again, Monday morning.

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